PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS

Guide to Courses (Syllabus) 2025–2026

(UPDATED JULY 2025)

Philosophy is the study of problems that are ultimate and general and which concern amongst other things the nature of human knowledge, the mind, language and value. University courses in philosophy lay special emphasis on precise and careful argument. In the earlier stages of the Cambridge course the central elements are metaphysics and the philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy, philosophy of language and logic. Later stages also cover the history of philosophy, philosophy of science and aesthetics. As the course proceeds the number of optional elements increases, so that in Part II there are no compulsory subjects.

The Tripos consists of three separate Parts, and it is possible for students to read the subject for one, two, or three years, and also either before or after reading another subject. It is not necessary for students to have done any work in philosophy before reading the subject at Cambridge and Part IA of the Tripos is taught on the assumption that they have not. Any combination of Arts and Science A levels is acceptable.

Part IA introduces the fundamental topics of metaphysics and philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy, philosophy of language and logic, together with detailed work on prescribed texts. All papers are compulsory.

In Part IB all candidates take a compulsory paper, 'Knowledge, Language and World'. Candidates also take three further papers from a list comprising experimental psychology, ethics, Greek and Roman philosophy, early modern philosophy, history of analytic philosophy, epistemology and metaphysics of science, political philosophy, aesthetics and philosophy of art, and jurisprudence.

In Part II, the subjects covered are metaphysics, philosophy of mind, ethics, Kant, philosophy in the long Middle Ages, philosophy of science, mathematical logic, philosophical logic, political philosophy, and Wittgenstein and his successors. Part IB and Part II also contain a general paper.

<u>Tripos final degree classification and weighting for Philosophy</u>

All undergraduate Tripos students beginning their study in **October 2020 and onward** will receive an overall degree classification at the end of their final year.

Students will still receive an individually classed result for each part of the Tripos but their final overall classification will be considered their degree outcome.

To calculate final overall classification for the Philosophy Tripos, **the first year has no weighting**, which means that the assessment marks achieved in the first year do not contribute to the overall class.

For students who matriculated between October 2020 and October 2024, marks for the **second year will count towards the overall class at a weighting of 30%.** The **third year will be weighted at 70%.**

For students who matriculated in October 2025 or later, **the second year will have no weighting, and the third year will be weighted at 100%**.

General information about the structure of Cambridge undergraduate courses can be found here:
https://www.camdata.admin.cam.ac.uk/structure-undergraduate-courses-cambridge

and the Notice in the Reporter with more information is here, as the situation is more complex if students intermit and/or change Triposes:

https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2019-20/weekly/6574/section6.shtml

Please note that the Faculty does not undertake to lecture on every topic listed on the syllabus.

Change to philosophy after studying another subject

All students changing into any part of the Philosophy Tripos are examined on the same number of papers per year as students who take the three-year Philosophy course.

(1) Students who change to philosophy within their first year may take Part IA at the end of their first year.

(2) Students who change to philosophy at the end of their first year may attempt Part IB in one year. Alternatively, students who change to philosophy at the end of their first year may attempt Part II in two years, taking all Part II exams in the second year.

(3) Students who change to philosophy at the end of their second year, after gaining honours in their previous subject, may

(a) attempt Part IB in one year
(b) attempt Part II in one year
(c) attempt Part II in two years

(4) Candidates who have previously taken Part IB of the Natural Sciences Tripos or Part II of the Classical Tripos may not offer any paper that they offered in that examination.

(5) Since 2013 it is no longer possible for candidates to get a BA after taking Part IB in their third and final year.

Affiliated students

Affiliated students normally take Part II over two years. In their first year they may take Part IB, and they must take Part II in their second year.

Parts IA, IB, and II of the Tripos

Details of the topics prescribed for the various papers in Parts IA, IB, and II of the Tripos are given below. Although students are not expected to have studied any philosophy before embarking on the Tripos, it is certainly useful for them to have read some books on the subject first, if only to enable them to get a better idea of what their work will be like. Any of the books on the following webpage can be recommended:

https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/prosp-students/Reading_list_for_prospective_students

Tripos Examinations (all parts of the Philosophy Tripos)

The Tripos Examination aims to test the breadth as well as the depth of candidates' knowledge. Accordingly, candidates should in general **not receive additional credit for recycled material**.

This rule cannot be completely hard and fast. For instance, an argument that is well-known in one area of the subject certainly merits credit when reused in some novel and interesting connection. However, the rule does apply if, in the examiners' judgement, a candidate is using essentially the same content to make essentially the same point.

The intention is also that the rule be applied proportionately. Then the reuse of, say, a few sentences cannot invalidate the answer where they reappear. And it is also acceptable for a student to report in one essay a point or argument from another, as a premise for then continuing and expanding on that idea. Examiners are asked (as always) to use their judgement, to ensure that withholding of marks only applies to cases of substantial recycling. This applies also to material submitted as coursework (i.e. extended essays or dissertations) and to material submitted for the General Paper (at Parts IB and II).

Part IA

Part IA may be taken only at the end of a student's first year as an undergraduate. All the following papers must be taken.

1. Metaphysics

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Causation
- Free will
- Induction and Miracles
- Personal Identity
- Mind and Matter: Dualism and Functionalism

2. Ethics and political philosophy

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Metaethics: fact and value; objectivity and subjectivity
- Normative ethics: consequentialism; deontology; virtue ethics
- Moral psychology: egoism and altruism; empathy; cognitive and affective attitudes
- Political obligation and authority: classical social contract theory; natural duty and fair play theory; anarchism
- Equality of opportunity: varieties of equality of opportunity; justifications and controversy; positive discrimination

3. Meaning

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Conditionals
- Frege and Russell on names and descriptions
- Necessity, Analyticity, The a priori
- Intention and convention: Grice and Lewis
- Causal theories of names
- Verificationism

4. Set texts

The paper will be divided into three sections, one on each of the set authors. Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least twelve set, which must be chosen from at least two sections.
Plato, *Meno* (lectures provided by the Faculty of Classics).
Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*.
J. S. Mill, *On Liberty* and *The Subjection of Women*.

5. Formal Methods

Paper 5 is worth $^{1}/_{9}$ of the total marks at IA, and each of the remaining four papers $^{2}/_{9}$. Paper 5 is in two sections, A and B. Candidates are asked to answer all five questions in section A and two out of four questions in section B. Section A is worth 45 marks and section B is worth 40 marks. Note that students should not expect to have any supervisions on Paper 5. (They should learn by attending lectures and logic classes and studying independently.)

- Basic notions: object-/meta-language; use/mention; validity
- Truth-functional logic: syntax; semantics; proofs
- First-order logic: syntax; semantics; proofs
- Theories: the definitions of consistency, soundness, completeness, independence
- Sets and relations
- Elementary probability

Part IB

Candidates must take Part IB Paper 1 Knowledge Language and the World and Paper 11 the General Paper, in addition, to three other papers.

(For candidates who have not done Part IA Philosophy, please see section 'Change to philosophy after studying another subject'.)

Candidates for Part IB may submit a pair of extended essays in place of any one of Papers 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9. For more details, see the section on “Coursework” at the end of the Guide to Courses.

The papers in Part IB are:

1. Knowledge, Language and the World

Assumed Knowledge

There are no procedural prerequisites. However, every topic uses elementary notions from formal logic. These notions are fully covered in Part IA Paper 5 (Formal Methods); students who have not taken this paper should either attend the Part IA lectures on Formal Logic or work through ‘forallx: Cambridge’ independently.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- The Nature of Knowledge
- Scepticism
- Primary and Secondary Qualities
- Logical Form
- Truth
- Modality: Semantics and Metaphysics

2. History of Analytic Philosophy

Assumed Knowledge

Familiarity with elementary formal logic is assumed. This will be adequately covered by sitting Part IA Paper 5.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

The philosophical work of Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein and Ramsey from 1879-1930, with particular reference to the following:

Frege
Begriffsschrift, Preface, §§1-12 and §§23-4 (1879)
The Foundations of Arithmetic (1884)
Function and concept (1891)
On sense and reference (1892)
On concept and object (1892)
Thoughts (1919)

Russell *The Principles of Mathematics*, chs IV-VIII (1903)
On denoting (1905)
On the nature of truth (1906)
Mathematical logic as based on the theory of types (1908)
On the nature of truth and falsehood (1910)
Knowledge by acquaintance and knowledge by description (1911)
The relation of sense data to physics (1914)

Wittgenstein *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1922)

Ramsey The foundations of mathematics (1925)
Universals (1925)
Facts and propositions (1927)

The paper also includes comparisons of the approaches of the named authors to the following issues: complex and fact; particulars and universals; quantifier and variable; logicism; the theory of types; judgment; truth; knowledge; and the mind. Candidates are therefore expected to study more than one author.

3. Ethics

Assumed Knowledge

There are no formal prerequisites, but the course builds on material that has been covered in Part IA. Those who have not already taken the Part IA Ethics and Political Philosophy course are strongly advised to study some of the recommended reading for that course.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Consequentialism: demands of beneficence; aggregation
- Deontology: contractualism; promise; consent
- Virtue ethics: Aristotle; contemporary accounts; empirical challenges
- Early modern moral philosophy: voluntarism; rationalism; sentimentalism
- Moral psychology: moral motivation; moral learning; practical reasoning

4. Greek and Roman philosophy

(taught by the Faculty of Classics)

Examination by three hour set examination or essay by substitution.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions, at least one from Section A and at least one from Section B.

Section A: questions on a set text – for 2025-26 Plato *Phaedo*

Section B: questions covered in other lecture courses – for 2025-26 Aristotle: the Greatest Hits; Early Greek Philosophy; Cicero *On Fate* and Hellenistic Philosophy

5.Early Modern philosophy

Assumed Knowledge

There are no prerequisites.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set, at least one question from each section.

Section A: Early Modern Thinkers

- Cavendish
- Conway
- Leibniz
- Hume

Section B: Themes in Early Modern Philosophy

The thinkers of Section A and the themes of Section B are subject to change and will be set in advance each Lent term.

For 2025-26: Early Modern Feminisms, Mind-Body Problems

Some comparative questions may be set. Extended essay titles must be drawn from different main topics. Each thinker of Section A listed above and each theme of section B listed above constitutes a separate main topic.

6. Epistemology and Metaphysics of Science
(Paper 5 of Part II History and Philosophy of Science course in the Natural Sciences Tripos)

Assumed Knowledge

There are no prerequisites.

Examination by three hour set examination.

[Note that there is a maximum quota of 30 Philosophy students able to take this option.]

7. Political philosophy

Assumed Knowledge

There are no formal prerequisites, but the course builds on material that has been covered in Part IA. Those who have not already taken the Part IA Ethics and Political Philosophy course are strongly advised to study some of the recommended reading for that course.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

Note: Students may take Paper 7. Political Philosophy or Paper 10. Jurisprudence. Students may not select both papers.

- Democracy: forms of democracy; justifications of democracy; the democratic boundary problem; populism
- Equality and egalitarianism: the value of equality; distributive equality; economic justice and gender
- Liberty and liberalism: the concept of liberty; Rawlsian liberalism; liberal feminism
- Property: labour, property and theft; the limits of markets

8. Introduction to Experimental Psychology and Neuroscience

(paper PBS01 from the Department of Psychology)

This course encompasses 48 lectures (24 MT, 24 LT) and 8 practical classes (4, MT, 4 LT), offering a comprehensive exploration of the core principles of human behaviour, cognitive processes, and the neuroscientific underpinnings of the mind. Students will learn about the history and methods of experimental psychology, delve into the structure and function of the brain, methods in neuroimaging such as EEG and fMRI, and study key areas such as perception, learning, memory, language and emotion. Through practical classes, students will gain hands-on experience of experimental methods and cognitive phenomena and understand conceptual and ethical practices in research.

A Level Biology (or equivalent) would be helpful for this course, but it is not required.

[Note that there is a maximum quota of 15 Philosophy students able to take this option]

9. Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art

Assumed Knowledge

There are no formal prerequisites, but aspects of the course build on material that has been covered in Part IA Paper 2 Ethics and Political Philosophy, Paper 3 Meaning and Paper 4 Set Texts. Those who have not already taken these courses are strongly advised to study some of the recommended readings.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Aesthetics: aesthetic judgments and properties; realism and anti-realism; aesthetics beyond art.
- The nature of art: the definition of art; the ontology of art; representation; expression; imagination and fiction.
- The values of art: the value of originality; aesthetic and cognitive value; aesthetic and moral value; interpretation and criticism.
- History of aesthetics: Ancient aesthetics; Early Modern aesthetics; Kantian and post-Kantian aesthetics.

10. Jurisprudence

(Borrowed from the Law Tripos)

Note: Students may take Paper 7. Political Philosophy or Paper 10. Jurisprudence. Students may not select both papers.

Jurisprudence is the study of the philosophy of law. This paper covers theories of law, the debates around legal positivism, and theories of justice and adjudication. Students will be asked to think about questions such as what is law? Is there a necessary core content for any legal system, and if so where does this come from? Are citizens obliged to obey the law, and if so why?

11.General Paper

Candidates are asked to write a philosophical essay on one of at least fifteen questions set.

Part II

Candidates must take four Part II papers from among Papers 1–10 and the papers borrowed from other Triposes. All candidates must offer either Paper 11 (General Paper) or a Dissertation in lieu of Paper 11.

Part II may be taken in one year after Part IB of the Philosophy Tripos or in two years or one after any other Honours Examination except Part IA of the Philosophy Tripos. For candidates who have not done Part IB Philosophy, please see the section 'Change to Philosophy after studying another subject'.

Candidates for Part II may submit a pair of extended essays in place of any one of Papers 1–10. Alternatively or in addition, candidates for Part II may submit a dissertation in place of the General Paper (Paper 11). Candidates at Part II thus have the option of submitting 40% coursework. For more details, see the section on "Coursework" at the end of the Guide to Courses.

The papers in Part II are:

1. Metaphysics

Assumed Knowledge

Part IA Paper 1 Metaphysics. Students who have not taken Philosophy in IA and IB will need to study some introductory texts in metaphysics and epistemology.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Realism and its alternatives; conceptual schemes; transcendental arguments
- Objects and properties: the contrast of particular and universal, and of abstract and concrete, realism about universals and alternatives; mereology
- Causation: realism about causation; direction of causation
- Time: dynamic versus block conceptions; the direction of time; the existence and persistence of entities in time
- Self: theories of the self; no-self in Western and non-Western philosophy

2. Philosophy of mind

Assumed Knowledge

There are no formal prerequisites, but the course builds on material that has been covered in Part IA and Part IB. Those who have not already taken the Part IA Set Texts or the Part IB Early Modern course are strongly advised to study some of the recommended reading for those courses.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Epistemology of mind: knowledge of one's own mind; knowledge of other minds
- Consciousness: varieties of consciousness; intentional theories of consciousness; the explanatory gap; the unity of consciousness
- Intentionality and mental representation: theories of content; externalism and internalism; perception and belief
- Mental faculties: intention and the will; imagination; desire

3. Ethics

Assumed Knowledge

There are no formal prerequisites, but the course builds on material that has been covered in Part IA and Part IB. Those who have not already taken the Part IA Ethics and Political Philosophy or the Part IB Ethics course are strongly advised to study some of the recommended reading for those courses.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions. Candidates also taking Paper 4 may not answer questions in this paper on Kant's ethics and Kantian ethics, which will be marked with an asterisk (*). The paper will be set in such a way that there are at least ten questions not marked with an asterisk.

- Expanding the Moral Circle: animal ethics; environmental ethics and climate justice; future generations
- Metaethics: metaphysical foundations of ethics; moral epistemology
- Kant's ethics and Kantian ethics: duty and motive; morality and freedom; conditioned and unconditioned value; the categorical imperative; autonomy; Kant on race and gender
- Topics in moral psychology: trust, ethics of knowing, responsibility

4. Kant

Assumed Knowledge

There are no formal prerequisites, but the course builds on material that has been covered in Part IA and Part IB. Those who have not already taken the Part IA Set Texts or the Part IB Early Modern course are strongly advised to study some of the recommended reading for those courses.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set. Candidates taking this paper are barred from answering asterisked (*) questions in Paper 3, Ethics.

- Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*
- Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*
- Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgement*

5. Philosophy in the Long Middle Ages

Assumed Knowledge

There are no pre-requisites.

This paper covers philosophy in the period from c. 400 to c. 1700, in the Latin, Arabic and Hebrew traditions. All texts are studied in translation. For 2025-26, the two set themes will be (1) Freedom of the Will and (2) Happiness and Love. The examination will consist of fifteen questions on the set texts below. Of these, two will be commentary questions, one on an extract from each of the two asterisked texts under Theme 1, the other one on extract from each of the two asterisked texts under Theme 2. Candidates must answer **three** questions, **including one or both** commentary questions. They may answer essay questions using texts on which they have commented in a commentary question, so long as any substantial repetition of material is avoided.

Theme 1: Freedom of the Will
Set Texts:
Boethius: *Consolation of Philosophy*, Book 5
al-Farabi: Commentary on *On Interpretation*, Chapter 9
***Anselm**: *On the Harmony of Foreknowledge, Predestination and the Grace of God with Free Choice*
Duns Scotus: *Reportatio* 1a, d.39-40, qq. 1-3
***Hasdai Crescas**: *The Light of the Lord, Treatise Two* (extract)
Spinoza: *Ethics,* Book 1

Theme 2: Happiness and Love
Set Texts:
Boethius: *Consolation of Philosophy*, Books 1-4 (many translations available)
Ibn Tufayl: *Hayy ibn Yaqzân,* transl. Lenn Goodman, new edn: London, University of Chicago Press, 2009
***Aquinas**, *Summa Theologiae* Ialae qq. 1-3 (for a translation, it is convenient to use the old Blackfriars one, available online: https://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/03d/1225-1274,_Thomas_Aquinas,_Summa_Theologiae_%5B1%5D,_EN.pdf and elsewhere
Aquinas / Scotus (TBC)
Marguerite Porete *The Mirror of Simple Souls,* transl. E.L. Babinsky, Paulist Press.
***Leone Ebreo** *Dialogues of Love,* ed. Rosella Pescatori, transl. Damian Bacich, University of Toronto Press, 2009
https://doi-org.ezp.lib.cam.ac.uk/10.3138/9781442687868: Dialogue 1
Spinoza: *Ethics,* Book 5 (many translations available)

CT = *The Cambridge Translations of Medieval Philosophical Texts* Vol. II: Ethics and Political Philosophy, ed. A. S. McGrade, John Kilcullen and Matthew Kempshall, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2001.

6. Philosophy of Science

Assumed Knowledge

Knowledge of the material covered by the following paper is assumed: Part IB Paper 6 Epistemology and Metaphysics of Science (Paper 5 of Part II History and Philosophy of Science course in the Natural Sciences Tripos).

Directors of Studies please note: students who take the **exam** for Part II Paper 6 will share supervision arrangements with students taking HPS Part II Paper 4 (Philosophy and Scientific Practice). Students will be given the opportunity to sign up for 4–6 supervisions; these supervisions will typically have two or three students in, and will be spread throughout Michaelmas and Lent. Directors of Studies therefore do not need to arrange supervisions separately for such students.

If a student wishes to write **extended essays** for Part II Paper 6, they will not participate in the above supervisory arrangements. Directors of Studies therefore **should** arrange extended essay supervisions for such students.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least fifteen set.

Proposed topics for 2025-26:

- Philosophy of Quantum Theory: the interpretation of quantum mechanics; non-locality.
- Philosophy of Space and Time: absolute and relational theories of space and time; geometry and conventionalism.
- Philosophy of Climate Science: Definitions of "climate"; adequacy of climate models; nature of climate evidence; causal attribution; ethics of “climate repair”.
- Philosophy of Biology: Biological function; Universal Darwinism
- Philosophy of the Biomedical Sciences: the nature of health and disease; evidence in medicine; public health policy.
- Philosophy of Psychiatry: mental disorders and society; neurodiversity.
- Natural Kinds in the Biomedical and Social Sciences: The idea of a natural kind. The application of this idea in biology, in psychiatry and social science, and in matters concerning race and sex.

7. Mathematical logic

Assumed Knowledge

Further Maths A-level or the equivalent is recommended. The material in Part IB Paper 1 Knowledge, Language and World and Part IA Paper 5 Formal Methods is assumed. Knowledge of the material covered by Part IB Paper 2 History of Analytic Philosophy is also desirable.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- First and second order logic: completeness, compactness, conservativeness, expressive power, and Löwenheim-Skolem theorems, cut-elimination.
- First and second order theories: categoricity, non-standard models of arithmetic.
- Set theory: embedding mathematics in set theory, the cumulative iterative hierarchy, elements of cardinal and ordinal arithmetic, the axiom of choice.

- Recursive functions and computability: decidability, axiomatizability, Church's thesis, Gödel's incompleteness theorems, Hilbert's programme.

8. Philosophical logic

Assumed Knowledge

Knowledge of the material covered by the following papers is assumed: Part IA Paper 3 Meaning, Part IA Paper 5 Formal Methods and Part IB Paper 1 Knowledge, Language and World. Knowledge of the material covered by Part IB Paper 2 History of Analytic Philosophy is desirable.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Radical interpretation: Quine on radical translation; Davidson and Lewis on radical interpretation.
- Theories of meaning: the aims and structure of a theory of meaning; modest vs full-blooded theories.
- Indexicals and context-dependence.
- The language and logic of plurals.
- Conditionals: indicative; subjunctive.
- The nature of logic: analytic versus empirical; conventionalism.
- Intuitionism: intuitionistic logic; traditional and contemporary arguments for intuitionism in mathematics; indefinitely extensible concepts.
- The nature of mathematics: formalism; if-thenism; platonism; neo-Fregean logicism; structuralism and fictionalism.

9. Wittgenstein and his successors

Assumed Knowledge

Knowledge of the material covered by the following papers is assumed: Part IA Paper 3 Meaning, Part IA Paper 5 Formal Methods and Part IB Paper 1 Knowledge, Language and World. Knowledge of the material covered by Part IB Paper 2 (History of Analytic Philosophy) is desirable.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

Wittgenstein, *Blue Book,Philosophical Investigations*
Anscombe, *Intention*
Austin, *Sense and Sensibilia, How to Do Things with Words*

The paper may also include comparative questions on the following themes: solipsism, action, mental states, perception.

10. Political philosophy

Assumed Knowledge

There are no formal prerequisites, but the course builds on material that has been covered in Part IA and Part IB. Those who have not already taken the Part IA Ethics and Political Philosophy or the Part IB Political Philosophy course are strongly advised to study some of the recommended reading for those courses.

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Global political issues: migration; international distributive justice; colonialism, historic injustice, and reparations; nationalism and cosmopolitanism
- Topics in feminism: pornography; sexual violence; sex work; misogyny
- Embodiment and identity: sex and gender; race and racism; disability and impairment; religion and culture; beauty and appearance
- Radical political theory: Marxism; power; ideal theory and its critics; resisting injustice

11. General Paper

Candidates are asked to write a philosophical essay on one of at least twenty questions set.

PAPERS FROM OTHER TRIPOSES THAT MAY BE TAKEN IN PART II

As well as the papers listed for Part II above, Part II students may also take a maximum of two papers from the following:

Classical Tripos:

B1 Plato

B2 Aristotle on Wisdom and First Philosophy

B3 Greek and Roman philosophers on Beauty

Coursework (Part IB and Part II)

Extended essays

At Part IB and Part II, students may submit a pair of extended essays in place of one subject paper. Only certain subject papers may be replaced by extended essays: see the list under the Part IB and Part II syllabi.

A pair of extended essays submitted in place of a paper must be on two topics that fall within the syllabus of the paper. The two essays must cover substantially different parts of the syllabus of the paper concerned. If a paper lists four or more main topics, then the two titles must come from different main topics. If a paper lists three or fewer topics, then the titles, can, in principle, come from the same topic. In this case, the titles must (at least) come from different sub-topics. (Meeting this constraint is not, however, immediately sufficient for approval; decisions on acceptability will be made on a case-by-case basis.) Candidates must submit their proposed titles to the Chair of Examiners for approval. See "Approval of Titles" below for details.

Each essay must be no more than 4000 words in length, including footnotes and appendices but excluding bibliography. See "Word Count" below for more details.

Essays must be submitted by **noon on the last Thursday of Full Lent Term**: that is to say, the penultimate day of Full Lent Term. Each essay should bear the candidate's Blind Grade Number, but **not** the name of the candidate or supervisor. Each essay should clearly indicate the word count.

The Faculty will grant self-certified extensions of up to 7 days to the extended essay deadline, upon request by the candidate. Such extensions can be requested for any reason (medical or non-medical), and there is no requirement for evidence or a reason to be provided. More detailed information about how to request a self-certified extension will be sent to candidates in the second half of Lent term.

Requests for longer extensions cannot be granted by the Faculty, and should be made to the Examination Access and Mitigation Committee (EAMC) via the candidate's College. Candidates seeking such an extension should speak to their Tutor.

Dissertations

Candidates for Part II have the option of offering a dissertation in place of Paper 11 (General Paper), on a topic of philosophical interest proposed by them and approved by the Chair of Examiners. Candidates must submit their proposed title, together with a brief abstract, to the Chair of Examiners for approval. See "Approval of Titles" below for details.

A dissertation may be no more than 8,000 words in length, including footnotes and appendices but excluding bibliography. See "Word Count" below for more details.

Dissertations must be submitted by **noon on the second Thursday of Full Easter Term**; that is to say, nine days after the beginning of Full Easter Term. The dissertation should bear the

candidate's Blind Grade number, but **not** the name of the candidate or supervisor. The dissertation should clearly indicate the word count. Students may include their abstract with the submitted dissertation, but are not required to do so.

Self-certification for an extension to the dissertation deadline is not possible: the Faculty has determined that permitting such extensions would not be practicable, in light of the time pressures on marking. Requests for an extension therefore cannot be granted by the Faculty, and should be made to the Examination Access and Mitigation Committee (EAMC) via the candidate's College. Candidates seeking such an extension should speak to their Tutor.

Approval of Titles

Proposed titles for extended essays and dissertations must be approved by the Chair of Examiners. Submitted coursework should be focused on the approved title; if it is not, marks may be lost for irrelevance. Dissertation abstracts (see below) are only used by the Chair of Examiners to understand the intended meaning of the title, and marks will not be deducted if the submitted dissertation does not exactly follow the abstract.

Titles should be submitted for approval in Michaelmas term, with an opportunity to revise titles if necessary in Lent term. In the below, "week *n*" refers to weeks of teaching term during Michaelmas and Lent: that is to say, the first day of week 1 is the first Thursday of Full Term (two days after the beginning of Full Term), and the last day of week 8 is the last Wednesday of Full Term (two days before the end of Full Term).

Proposed dissertation titles should be accompanied by a brief abstract, of no more than 50 words, to assist the Chair of Examiners in understanding the proposed dissertation topic. All references to "titles" in the below should, for the case of dissertations, be understood to mean "titles and abstracts".

In Michaelmas term, candidates may submit proposed titles for approval from Thursday of week 5; titles should be submitted by noon on Thursday of week 6. The Chair of Examiners will review the submitted titles, and decisions on whether titles have been approved or not will be sent to candidates by Thursday of week 8. Candidates whose titles were not approved should submit a revised title by noon on the first Thursday after the end of Full Michaelmas Term. Decisions on revised titles will be sent to candidates by two weeks after the end of Full Michaelmas term.

Only one opportunity to submit a revised title will be given as part of the Michaelmas term approval process: if a candidate's title(s) have not been approved by the end of that process, then their next opportunity to seek approval of those title(s) will be during Lent term (through the process for requesting changes of title).

Failure to submit a title (or a revised title) will be treated as though the candidate had submitted a blank title, which is automatically not approved. For example, a candidate who fails to submit a title by Thursday of week 6 may submit a ("revised") title by the first Thursday

after the end of Full Michaelmas Term, but will not have the opportunity to make another revision beyond that.

In Lent term, candidates may submit requests to change their title from Thursday of week 5; requests for changes of title should be submitted by noon on Thursday of week 6, and decisions on whether the request has been approved or not will be sent to candidates by Thursday of week 7.

If a change of title is not approved, then the candidate must submit their coursework using the title that was approved in Michaelmas (assuming there is one). If no title was approved in Michaelmas, then the candidate will be withdrawn from the relevant piece of coursework and entered instead for the relevant examination.

In addition to the above, candidates who are writing dissertations may request minor amendments to their dissertation title during the Easter vacation. However, it is at the discretion of the Chair of Examiners whether to approve such requests, and no guarantee is given for how quickly the Chair will make such decisions. If a proposed amendment is not approved, then the candidate must submit their dissertation using the title that has been approved.

Self-certification for extensions to deadlines for proposed or revised titles is not permitted. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair of Examiners may (at their discretion) approve titles or revisions submitted after the relevant deadline. In such a case, students should write to the Exams Administrator to request such an approval and explain the circumstances that make it necessary; the Exams Administrator will then pass that request, anonymised if necessary, to the Chair of Examiners. For example, students who return from intermission in Lent term, and who wish to submit coursework under a different title to a title approved the previous year, should contact the Exams Administrator as soon as possible after their return to submit proposed titles for their coursework.

Word Count

An extended essay should be no more than 4000 words in length, and a dissertation should be no more than 8000 words in length. It is recommended that an extended essay be at least 3000 words in length, and that a dissertation be at least 6000 words in length; candidates who plan to submit work shorter than this are advised to discuss the matter with their supervisor. The word count should be clearly indicated on each piece of submitted coursework.

In all cases, the word count includes abstracts, footnotes, and appendices, but excludes titles and bibliography. “Bibliography” refers to the list of references at the end of the written work; citations and references in the text, whether in long- or short-form, are included in the wordcount.

The word count of a submitted piece of coursework will be determined by putting the text of that submission (other than the title and bibliography) into Microsoft Word and using the word count feature.

Where a piece of coursework exceeds the relevant word count, the examiners may (at their discretion) decline to read any material in excess of the word count.

Plagiarism and citation

All submissions are checked for plagiarism using text-matching software (currently "Turnitin"). You must give proper references for any ideas or claims, follow appropriate citation practices when citing published works, and cite any unpublished sources (e.g. your supervisor or lecture notes). For more information, see https://www.plagiarism.admin.cam.ac.uk/ and https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/files/plagiarism.pdf. The Examiners have power to examine a candidate *viva voce* on submitted coursework.

The Faculty does not require a specific citation style, so long as candidates make clear what sources they are drawing upon for the ideas they are presenting (and in historical papers, that they make clear what part of a text they are discussing, or where evidence for a certain exegetical claim may be found). It is recommended to consistently apply a standard citation style as a means of ensuring that this requirement is fulfilled. Further guidance on referencing and citation can be obtained from the Philosophy Library: please contact philosophy@lib.cam.ac.uk.

Summary of Deadlines (with dates for 2025–26)

Window for submission of titles	Thursday of week 5 to Thursday of week 6, MT	6/11/2025–13/11/2025
Deadline for submission of revised titles	First Thursday after MT	11/12/2025
Window for requests to change title	Thursday of week 5 to Thursday of week 6, LT	19/02/2026–26/02/2026
Deadline for submission of extended essays	Last Thursday of LT	19/03/2026
Deadline for submission of dissertations	Second Thursday of ET	07/05/2026